Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor having a plurality of dark pixels and a plurality of standard pixels, the sensor operable to emit signals corresponding to sensed conditions at each of the plurality of dark pixels and each of the plurality of standard pixels; and

processor means for receiving the signals, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions using the signals, and for emitting a control signal if the absolute ambient light value is less than a predetermined value.

2. (Original) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 further comprising:

means, responsive to the control signal, for controlling a light generating device.

3. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the processor means is operable to compare the absolute ambient light value to a predetermined value, the optical moisture detector further comprising:

timer means for selectively disabling the processor means from comparing the absolute ambient light value to the predetermined value for a programmed period of time.

4. (Original) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the optical moisture sensor is operably mountable with respect to a windshield of a motor vehicle.

5. (Original) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the optical moisture sensor is operably positionable in a spaced relationship relative to a windshield of a motor vehicle.

6. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the optical moisture sensor further comprises:

a CCD camera.

7. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the optical moisture sensor further comprises:

a CMOS camera.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the processor means further comprises:

a microprocessor for operably receiving the signals from the sensor.

10. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 1 wherein the processing means compares the absolute ambient light value to a plurality of predetermined values such that the processing means compares the absolute ambient light value to a first predetermined value to determine if a signal to turn on a light generating device is to be sent, and compares the absolute ambient light value to a second predetermined value to determine if a signal to turn off the light generating device is to be sent.

11. (Previously Presented) An optical moisture detector for measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

an optical moisture sensor having a plurality of dark pixels and a plurality of standard pixels for sensing the presence of moisture on a windshield of a

vehicle, the sensor operable to emit signals corresponding to sensed conditions at each of the plurality of dark pixels and each of the plurality of standard pixels; and

processor means for receiving the signals, for determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to existing ambient light conditions using the signals, and for emitting a control signal if the absolute ambient light value is less than a predetermined value.

12. (Original) The optical moisture detector of claim 11 further comprising:

means, responsive to the control signal, for controlling a light generating device.

13. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 11 wherein the processor means is operable to compare the absolute ambient light value to a predetermined value, the optical moisture detector further comprising:

timer means for selectively disabling the processor means from comparing the absolute ambient light value to the predetermined value for a programmed period of time.

14. (Previously Presented) The optical moisture detector of claim 11 wherein the processor means is operable to compare the absolute ambient light value to a predetermined value, and wherein the processor means emits the control signal only if at least two successive comparisons indicate the absolute ambient light value is less than the predetermined value.

15. (Original) The optical moisture detector of claim of claim 11 wherein the optical moisture sensor is operably mountable with respect to a windshield of a motor vehicle.

16. (Original) The optical moisture detector of claim of claim 11 wherein the optical moisture sensor is operably positionable in a spaced relationship relative to a windshield of a motor vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of measuring ambient light conditions comprising:

sensing an image with an optical moisture sensor having a plurality of dark pixels and a plurality of standard pixels, the sensor operable to emit signals corresponding to sensed conditions at each of the plurality of dark pixels and each of the plurality of standard pixels;

receiving the signals and determining an absolute ambient light value corresponding to the existing ambient light conditions with processor means using the signals; and

emitting a control signal with the processor means if the absolute ambient light value is less than a predetermined value.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

mounting the optical moisture sensor to the windshield of a vehicle.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

disposing the optical moisture sensor in a spatial relationship relative to the windshield of a vehicle.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

controlling a light generating device in response to the control signal.

Claims 21 - 28 (Cancelled.)